



**International
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Sam LaHood
Former Egypt Country Director

Sam LaHood joined the International Republican Institute (IRI) in August 2010 and relocated to Cairo, Egypt to be the country director of the IRI Egypt program. While there, he witnessed the January 25, 2011 revolution and helped build the IRI Egypt program into one of the Institute's largest programs.

In Egypt, IRI focused on strengthening emerging political parties, working with candidates, voter education, public opinion research and conducted international election observations. At the end of 2011, Egyptian authorities raided the Egypt offices of several nongovernmental organizations (NGO), including IRI. Subsequently, LaHood (along with other NGO staff) was prosecuted in proceedings that were widely criticized as politically motivated by the United States and European governments.

LaHood departed Cairo in March 2012, taking an assignment with the IRI Asia division, including working abroad for one year before returning to the United States. Currently, he is serving as program officer for Cambodia and Indonesia in the Washington, D.C. office. Prior to joining IRI, LaHood was a political appointee at the U.S. Department of State for President George W. Bush, including working at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq for more than one year. His experience also includes serving as a full-time employee on the 2008 McCain presidential campaign and working as an independent consultant. LaHood has traveled to more than 55 countries, living as a resident in eight of them.